

## **They seek to improve the flow of traffic in the region**

**The Southern California Association of Governments presented project that would cost 200,000 million dollars**

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In an attempt to improve the flow of traffic in the region, officials of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) presented a project to help improve State highways and freeways. The project would cost up to 200,000 million dollars and would be able to generate more than 32 thousand new jobs.

Mark Pisano, Executive Director of the SCAG, explained that the mega project, titled Destiny 2030, would mainly help satisfy demands that airports in the region would have, no longer so much to transfer people from one place to another, but to transfer goods.

"Our goal is to improve the flow of traffic and overall appearance for investors, therefore, this plan would have a duration of approximately 25 years", said Pisano, during an interview with La Opinión.

According to officials, Destiny 2030, is composed of various phases, most importantly maintaining and improving the highways and freeways that already exist by expanding lanes for two or more people.

"Consideration on improving the transport of cargo that arrives at the regional airports as well as improving the arteries that arrive at those air terminals", said Pisano.

Another aim of Destiny 2030 includes implementing more effective bus systems such as improving Metrolink capacity as well as implementing a railway system of magnetic levitation that would expedite the traffic of people to points such as airports and commercial areas.

"More than a long-term plan of transportation, Destiny 2030 represents a vision to have a healthier, stronger, and more effective region", said Harry Baldwin, Mayor of the City of San Gabriel and Vice Mayor of the Committee of Transportation of SCAG.

According to Pisano, the total cost of this mega project is valued at 200,000 million dollars, of which, 120,000 million would come from money they already have, 20,000 million would come from taxes, and 60,000 million would come from private sources.

"Actually, the plan has to be discussed amongst the public so that comments and concerns could then be presented to the Regional Counsel of California for approval. If all turns out well, a final decision could be reached by April of 2004", detailed Pisano.

A few days ago, a group of officials from several cities of the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles introduced a long-term plan to develop a system of airports. These airports would not only help ease some of the congestion of the International Airport of Los Angeles (LAX), but would generate jobs in other parts of Southern California.

This plan would consist of diverting some passenger flights to other regional airports such as Ontario, Riverside, San Bernardino, Victorville, Long Beach, Orange, Burbank and Van Nuys.

Just like Destiny 2030, this plan will also be considered by officials of different cities of Southern California.

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